

*ERIGERON QUIEXOBRENSIS* (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAEE), A NEW  
SPECIES FROM OAXACA, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new member of *Erigeron* sect. *Imbarba* is described from Cerro Quiexobra in southcentral Oaxaca, *E. quiexobrensis* spec. nov. The new species apparently is most closely related to *E. galeottii* (A. Gray ex Hemsl.) E. Greene but is distinguished by its completely prostrate stems, rooting at the nodes and bearing solitary heads on the upturned branch apices.

KEY WORDS: *Erigeron*, Asteraceae, Astereae, México

Recent collections by Dr. Andrew McDonald from Cerro Quiexobra in southcentral Oaxaca revealed a number of previously undescribed species of various genera and families. Among these is a species of *Erigeron* sect. *Imbarba*. Only the two closest relatives of the new species (see comments below) occur outside of the Sierra Madre Occidental of México. Two other species, both from an area of high elevation in southern Chihuahua, have very recently been added to the original seven taxa of this section (Nesom 1989a, 1989b, 1990).

*Erigeron quiexobrensis* Nesom, sp. nov. TYPE: MÉXICO. Oaxaca: Cerro Quiexobra, 35 km ESE of Miahuatlán, 5 km NE of Santo Domingo Ozolotepec, 16° 10' N, 96° 15' W; on ridgetops and mountain saddles, rare in subalpine glades dominated by *Lupinus*, *Penstemon*, and misc. forbs, occasional in open pine forest, 3500-3700 m, 3 Oct 1990, A. McDonald 3005 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotypes: CHAPA, ENCB, MEXU, GH, NY, WIS, US).

*Erigeronti galeottii* (A. Gray ex Hemsley) E. Greene similis sed differt caulibus procumbentibus et acheniis glabris. *Erigeronti guatemalensi* (S.F. Blake) Nesom habitu similis sed foliis multo majoribus et capitulis minoribus floribus radii paucioribus differt.

Perennial herbs from rhizomes, producing rosettes of leaves and leafy, prostrate stems rooting at the nodes, ascending-erect at the ends and bearing terminal, solitary heads. Stems sparsely to moderately pilose with hairs mostly 1.0-1.8 mm long, eglandular. Basal leaves obovate, 4-6 cm long, 15-23 mm wide, with shallowly crenate margins and an attenuate but not distinctly petiolate base, moderately hairy above and beneath with ascending hairs, eglandular; cauline leaves oblong-obovate, 20-25 mm long, even sized along the stems, sessile, mostly subclasping, with crenate margins. Heads on merely bracteate peduncles 3-14 cm long and dilated immediately beneath the heads, the involucre 11-13 mm wide; phyllaries linear-lanceolate, herbaceous abaxially and adaxially, apparently without raised ribs, in 3-4 subequal series, the longest 5.5-7.0 mm long, with purplish, loosely spreading apices, sparsely pilose, eglandular. Ray flowers 75-105, the corollas white, purple tinged, 7-11 mm long, the ligules 1.2-1.5 mm wide. Disc corollas 1.6-2.4 mm long, broadly funnelform; collecting appendages of the style branches 0.1-0.2 mm long. Achenes obovate, 1.0-1.2 mm long, 0.4-0.6 mm wide, glabrous, shiny, compressed, with 2 thin, whitish nerves; pappus represented by only a minute, cartilaginous rim, bristles absent.

The only other species of *Erigeron* sect. *Imbarba* with a habit similar to that of the new species (producing only prostrate stems) is *Erigeron guatemalensis* (S.F. Blake) Nesom, but the latter produces much smaller leaves (the basal 2-10 cm long) and smaller heads (the involucre 8-10 mm wide) and fewer rays (55-75). *Erigeron galeottii* (A. Gray ex Hemsl.) E. Greene is similar to *E. quixobrensis* in features of vestiture and in leaf, floral and fruit morphology and is probably most closely related to it, but the former produces only erect stems and has consistently strigose achenes. *Erigeron galeottii* is the most widespread species in the section, ranging from the Sierra Madre Occidental across the transvolcanic belt, and from there to its southern extremity in central Oaxaca, where it occurs within about 100 kilometers of Cerro Quiexobra. The range of *E. guatemalensis*, which is endemic to the Sierra Cuchumatanes of Guatemala, lies about 550 kilometers southeast of Cerro Quiexobra.

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